Export of Cotton

3736. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the year since when the cotton is being exported;

(b) the total amount of cotton exported during 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(c) the target fixed for the Export during the above years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Although authentic records in this regard are not available, according to the information available, it appears that India has been exporting cotton since 1923-24.

(b) During the cotton season 1990-91, 11.90 lakh bales of cotton were exported. During the current cotton season 1991-92 cotton during 1991-92, about 12, 000 baless of cotton (Bengal Deshi) have been exported upto 12th March , 1992.

(c) Government released quotas for export of 12.55 lakh bales of cotton season. During 1991-92 cotton season Government has released 1 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton for export. An export quota of 4 lakh bales of cotton was also placed at the disposal of Cotton Corporation of India to be operated by it during 1991-92 season from time to time keeping in view of the prevailing prices. However, the CCI has not operated its quota in view of the upward trend in cotton prices during the season.

Reward to Police Personnel for Confiscated Smuggled Goods

3737. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any reward is given to police personnel for confiscating smuggled goods and detecting cases of income tax evasion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of rewards given to police personnel in Maharashtra particularly in Sindhudurg district for confiscating smuggled goods during the last three years;

(d) if no reward is given to police personnel, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to permit all law enforcing agencies to prosecute and initiate action against smugglers to check smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). All Government servants including police personnel of the central and State Government are eligible for monetary reward upto a maximum of 20% of the market value of goods seized depending upon various factors such as the risk involved to the Government servant in working out the case, the difficulty in securing the information, the axtent to which the vigilance of the staff led to the seizure, special initiative, efforts and inequity displayed, etc. and whether besides the seizure of contraband goods, the owners/organisers/ financiers/ racketeers as well as the carriers of the smuggled goods have been apprehended or not.

Under the Income-Tax Act, however, the responsibility for detecting income tax evasion is of the Income tax authorities specified under the said Act and , therefore, police personnel are not entitled to any reward in detecting income-tax evasion.

(c) and (d). Some police officers of Sindhudurg district have been sanctioned and paid monetary reward of Rs. 1,04,000